

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 178

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize a connecting education and emerging professions demonstration grant program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 8, 2009

Mr. FEINGOLD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize a connecting education and emerging professions demonstration grant program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Connecting Education
5 and Emerging Professions Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The majority of secondary school students
9 in the United States receive some career-related in-

1 construction before graduation, and about half of sec-
2 ondary school students have a strong career-related
3 component to their educational programs.

4 (2) A gap still remains between what students
5 are learning in school and the knowledge required to
6 succeed in the current labor market.

7 (3) Employers in various economic sectors, in-
8 cluding technology, manufacturing, healthcare, con-
9 struction, and others, report difficulty in identifying
10 qualified candidates for skilled positions.

11 (4) A survey of more than 400 employers na-
12 tionwide found that nearly half were dissatisfied
13 with the overall preparation of secondary school
14 graduates.

15 (5) Almost 40 percent of secondary school grad-
16 uates report feeling unprepared for the workplace or
17 postsecondary education.

18 (6) In order for companies in the United States
19 to be competitive in a global economy, the United
20 States must have a highly skilled workforce.

21 (7) Adequate preparation on the secondary
22 school level can help prepare students to enter high-
23 demand fields in need of skilled workers.

1 (8) Collaboration between businesses, indus-
2 tries, and education leaders can help determine how
3 best to prepare students for workforce success.

4 (9) Career-related experiences during secondary
5 education, such as apprenticeships, are associated
6 with positive labor market outcomes for students.

7 (10) The United States has a secondary school
8 graduation rate of 70 percent, and approximately
9 one-third of students entering secondary school will
10 not graduate on time.

11 (11) Minority and low socioeconomic status stu-
12 dents have significantly lower secondary school grad-
13 uation rates.

14 (12) Disengagement from classroom instruction
15 contributes to student decisions to drop out of
16 school.

17 (13) Studies indicate a link between career-ori-
18 ented models of secondary education, secondary
19 school dropout rate reduction, and higher earning
20 potential for secondary school graduates.

21 (14) Studies suggest that academic lessons
22 taught in a work context or an applied manner can
23 improve some students' ability to comprehend and
24 retain information.

25 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

1 (1) foster improved collaboration among sec-
 2 ondary schools, State, regional, and local businesses,
 3 institutions of higher education, industry, workforce
 4 development organizations, labor organizations, and
 5 other nonprofit community organizations to identify
 6 emerging industry pathways, as well as the academic
 7 skills necessary to improve student success in the
 8 workforce or postsecondary education;

9 (2) address industry and postsecondary edu-
 10 cation needs for a prepared and skilled workforce;

11 (3) improve the potential for economic and em-
 12 ployment growth in covered communities; and

13 (4) help address the dropout crisis in the
 14 United States by involving students in a collabo-
 15 rative curriculum or program development process
 16 related to emerging industry pathways to improve
 17 student engagement and attendance in secondary
 18 school.

19 **SEC. 3. CONNECTING EDUCATION AND EMERGING PROFES-**
 20 **SIONS DEMONSTRATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Part D of title V of the Ele-
 22 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 23 7241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 24 lowing:

1 **“Subpart 22—Connecting Education and Emerging**
 2 **Professions Demonstration Grant Program**

3 **“SEC. 5621. DEFINITIONS.**

4 “In this subpart:

5 “(1) COVERED COMMUNITY.—The term ‘cov-
 6 ered community’ means a town, city, community, re-
 7 gion, or State that has—

8 “(A) experienced a significant percentage
 9 job loss in the 5 years prior to the date of en-
 10 actment of this subpart or is projected to expe-
 11 rience a significant percentage job loss within 5
 12 years after the date of enactment of this sub-
 13 part; or

14 “(B) an unemployment rate that has in-
 15 creased in the 12 months prior to the date of
 16 enactment of this subpart.

17 “(2) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘eligi-
 18 ble partnership’ means a partnership that includes—

19 “(A) a State educational agency, a consor-
 20 tium of local educational agencies, or a local
 21 educational agency that collaborates with—

22 “(i) a State, regional, or local busi-
 23 ness, including a small business, that
 24 serves a covered community in which a
 25 qualifying school is located; or

1 “(ii) a regional workforce investment
 2 board that serves a covered community in
 3 which a qualifying school is located; and

4 “(B) at least one of the following entities:

5 “(i) An institution of higher education
 6 that provides a 4-year program of instruc-
 7 tion.

8 “(ii) An accredited community college.

9 “(iii) An accredited career or technical
 10 school or college.

11 “(iv) A tribal college or university.

12 “(v) A nonprofit community organiza-
 13 tion.

14 “(vi) A labor organization.

15 “(3) EMERGING INDUSTRY PATHWAYS.—The
 16 term ‘emerging industry pathways’ means industry
 17 careers that—

18 “(A) are estimated to increase in the num-
 19 ber of job opportunities in a covered community
 20 within the 5 to 7 years after the date of enact-
 21 ment of this subpart;

22 “(B) require new academic skill sets be-
 23 cause of new technology or innovation in the
 24 field;

1 “(C) are important to the growth of the
 2 State economy, regional economy, or local
 3 area’s economy; and

4 “(D) may include—

5 “(i) green industries;

6 “(ii) healthcare industries;

7 “(iii) advanced manufacturing indus-
 8 tries; and

9 “(iv) programs of study, as described
 10 in section 122(c)(1)(A) of the Carl D. Per-
 11 kins Career and Technical Education Act
 12 of 2006.

13 “(4) QUALIFYING SCHOOL.—The term ‘quali-
 14 fying school’ means a secondary school that—

15 “(A) serves students not less than 30 per-
 16 cent of whom are eligible for the school lunch
 17 program under the Richard B. Russell National
 18 School Lunch Act or meet an equivalent indi-
 19 cator of poverty established by the Secretary;

20 “(B) has a graduation rate that is lower
 21 than the State average; and

22 “(C) is located in a covered community.

23 “(5) SCHOOL- AND WORK-BASED CURRICULUM
 24 OR PROGRAM.—The term ‘school- and work-based
 25 curriculum or program’ means a curriculum or pro-

1 gram that incorporates a combination of school-
 2 based instruction and work-based learning opportu-
 3 nities, including internships, work experience pro-
 4 grams, apprenticeships, service learning programs,
 5 mentorship opportunities, job shadowing, and other
 6 career and technical education programs, in an
 7 emerging industry pathway.

8 “(6) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The
 9 term ‘tribal college or university’ means an edu-
 10 cational institution that is—

11 “(A) a tribal college or university, as de-
 12 fined in section 2(a) of the Tribally Controlled
 13 Colleges and Universities Assistance Act of
 14 1978; or

15 “(B) one of the 1994 Institutions, as de-
 16 fined in section 532 of the Equity in Edu-
 17 cational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7
 18 U.S.C. 301 note).

19 **“SEC. 5622. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated
 21 under section 5626, the Secretary shall establish and carry
 22 out an emerging professions and educational improvement
 23 demonstration project, by awarding grants, on a competi-
 24 tive basis, to eligible partnerships.

25 “(b) PROGRAM PERIODS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
2 grants under this subpart for periods of not more
3 than 5 years, of which the eligible partnership shall
4 use—

5 “(A) not more than 18 months for assess-
6 ing emerging industry pathways, assessing the
7 academic skills needed for success in such path-
8 ways, and designing a school- and work-based
9 curriculum or program to teach such academic
10 skills necessary for success in an emerging in-
11 dustry pathway;

12 “(B) not more than 48 months for imple-
13 menting the new emerging industry pathways
14 school- and work-based curriculum or program
15 in qualifying schools; and

16 “(C) not more than 12 months to dissemi-
17 nate best practices to other State educational
18 agencies, local educational agencies, or schools.

19 “(2) OVERLAP.—Each eligible partnership re-
20 ceiving a grant under this subpart may carry out
21 subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C) concurrently.

22 “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sub-
23 part, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible partner-
24 ships that—

1 “(1) serve qualifying schools in which 50 per-
 2 cent or more of the students are eligible for the
 3 school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell
 4 National School Lunch Act or meet an equivalent in-
 5 dicator of poverty established by the Secretary;

6 “(2) serve qualifying schools the majority of
 7 which have secondary school dropout rates in the top
 8 25 percent statewide;

9 “(3) pledge to serve the students most at-risk
 10 of dropping out of qualifying schools;

11 “(4) develop school- and work-based curricula
 12 or programs serving green industries, health care in-
 13 dustries, and advanced manufacturing industries; or

14 “(5) have a demonstrated record of success in
 15 forming collaborative partnerships with businesses,
 16 workforce development boards, institutions of higher
 17 education, local community and technical colleges,
 18 tribal colleges or universities, labor organizations,
 19 and other nonprofit community organizations.

20 **“SEC. 5623. APPLICATIONS.**

21 “An eligible partnership that desires to receive a
 22 grant under this subpart shall submit to the Secretary an
 23 application at such time, in such manner, and containing
 24 such information as the Secretary may require, includ-
 25 ing—

1 “(1) a description of the eligible partnership,
2 including the responsibilities of each partner and
3 how each partner will meet its responsibilities;

4 “(2) a description of the statewide, regional, or
5 local emerging industry pathways and labor market
6 needs to be filled;

7 “(3) a description of how members of the eligi-
8 ble partnership will collaborate with each other and
9 interested community stakeholders to assess the
10 emerging industry pathways in the State, region, or
11 local area;

12 “(4) a description of how the eligible partner-
13 ship will engage students from qualifying schools to
14 be served in the design and implementation of the
15 school- and work-based curriculum or program;

16 “(5) a description of how the eligible partner-
17 ship will use the assessment of emerging industry
18 pathways to establish a school- and work-based cur-
19 riculum or program to teach academic and industry
20 skills needed for success in such emerging industries
21 and how these skills will be aligned with existing
22 challenging State academic content standards;

23 “(6) a description of how teachers, parents or
24 guardians, and school guidance counselors will be
25 consulted by the eligible partnership in the develop-

1 ment of the school- and work-based curriculum or
2 program developed under this subpart;

3 “(7) a description of how the eligible partner-
4 ship will ensure that teachers and instructors have
5 the necessary training and preparation to teach the
6 school- and work-based curriculum or program de-
7 veloped under this subpart;

8 “(8) a description of how the school- and work-
9 based curriculum or program developed under this
10 subpart will improve the academic achievement, stu-
11 dent attendance, and secondary school completion of
12 at-risk students and such students’ readiness to
13 enter into a career in an emerging industry or pur-
14 sue postsecondary education;

15 “(9) a description of how the eligible partner-
16 ship will design a school- and work-based curriculum
17 or program that meets the unique academic and ca-
18 reer development needs of students to be served by
19 the curriculum or program;

20 “(10) a description of how the school- and
21 work-based curriculum or program will support
22 statewide, regional, or local emerging industries;

23 “(11) a description of how the eligible partner-
24 ship will measure and report improvement in aca-
25 demic and student engagement outcomes among stu-

1 dents who participate in the school- and work-based
2 curriculum or program developed under this subpart;

3 “(12) a description of how the eligible partner-
4 ship will seek to leverage other sources of Federal,
5 State, and local funding to support the development
6 and implementation of the school- and work-based
7 curriculum or program;

8 “(13) a description of how the eligible partner-
9 ship will work to create, use, and evaluate individual
10 learning plans and career portfolios for students
11 served under this subpart;

12 “(14) a description of how the eligible partner-
13 ship will coordinate such curriculum or program
14 with programs funded under the Carl D. Perkins
15 Career and Technical Education Act of 2006; and

16 “(15) a description of how the eligible partner-
17 ship plans to sustain and expand such school- and
18 work-based curriculum or program after the Federal
19 grant period ends.

20 **“SEC. 5624. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.**

21 “(a) SELECTION.—In awarding grants under this
22 subpart, the Secretary shall—

23 “(1) consider the information submitted by the
24 eligible partnerships under section 5623;

1 “(2) prioritize applications in accordance with
2 section 5622(c); and

3 “(3) select eligible partnerships that submit ap-
4 plications in compliance with section 5623.

5 “(b) AWARD AMOUNTS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c),
7 the Secretary shall award each grant under this sub-
8 part in an amount of not more than \$5,000,000.

9 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible partnership
10 that receives a grant under this subpart shall use—

11 “(A) not more than 35 percent of the
12 grant funds for designing the emerging industry
13 pathways school- and work-based curriculum or
14 program; and

15 “(B) not less than 65 percent of the grant
16 funds for implementing the emerging industry
17 pathways school- and work-based curriculum or
18 program in qualifying schools.

19 “(c) FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT CURRICULA OR PRO-
20 GRAMS.—The Secretary may not award grant funds under
21 subsection (b)(2)(B) to implement the emerging industry
22 pathways school- and work-based curriculum or program
23 until the Secretary certifies that the eligible partnership
24 is in compliance with the following:

1 “(1) The eligible partnership has engaged in a
2 collaborative process involving educators and school
3 administrators, including curriculum experts, as well
4 as representatives from local businesses and industry
5 to assess emerging industry demands and the aca-
6 demic knowledge and skills needed to meet those de-
7 mands.

8 “(2) The school- and work-based curriculum or
9 program developed by the eligible partnership is
10 aligned with challenging State academic content
11 standards.

12 “(3) The eligible partnership has consulted with
13 and involved students in qualifying schools in the
14 collaboration process and design of the school- and
15 work-based curriculum or program.

16 “(4) The eligible partnership has received a
17 commitment from at least one qualifying school
18 agreeing to implement the school- and work-based
19 curriculum or program in the qualifying school.

20 “(5) The school- and work-based curriculum or
21 program will help prepare students for both direct
22 entry into a career in emerging industries and suc-
23 cess in postsecondary education.

24 “(6) The eligible partnership has established a
25 plan to promote the school- and work-based cur-

1 riculum or program among qualifying schools, busi-
 2 nesses, parental groups, and community organiza-
 3 tions.

4 “(d) ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS.—

5 “(1) PLANNING PHASE.—An eligible partner-
 6 ship that receives a grant under this subpart shall
 7 use the grant funds in the designing phase for the
 8 following:

9 “(A) Establishing collaborative working
 10 groups consisting of educators, school adminis-
 11 trators, representatives of local or regional busi-
 12 nesses, postsecondary education representatives,
 13 representatives from labor organizations, and
 14 representatives from nonprofit organizations.

15 “(B) Identifying emerging industry path-
 16 ways at the State, regional, or local level.

17 “(C) Identifying the academic and skill
 18 gaps that need to be addressed to promote suc-
 19 cess in the emerging industry pathways identi-
 20 fied in subparagraph (B).

21 “(D) Developing a school- and work-based
 22 curriculum or program to teach and integrate
 23 the academic and work-based skills, including
 24 soft skills, that are needed for success in emerg-

1 ing industry pathways and postsecondary edu-
 2 cation.

3 “(E) Creating a comprehensive set of aca-
 4 demic and industry skills to be taught across
 5 multiple emerging industry pathways.

6 “(F) Aligning the school- and work-based
 7 curriculum or program with challenging State
 8 academic content standards.

9 “(G) Establishing professional development
 10 opportunities for educators, business partners,
 11 school counselors, and others who will be imple-
 12 menting the school- and work-based curriculum
 13 or program.

14 “(H) Collaborating with multistate regions
 15 to develop and identify a school- and work-
 16 based curriculum or program that addresses re-
 17 gional emerging industry pathways.

18 “(2) IMPLEMENTING PHASE.—An eligible part-
 19 nership that receives a grant under this subpart
 20 shall use the grant funds in the implementing phase
 21 for the following:

22 “(A) Integrating the emerging industry
 23 pathways school- and work-based curriculum or
 24 program into classroom- or work-based instruc-
 25 tion.

1 “(B) Providing professional development
2 opportunities designed around the school- and
3 work-based curriculum or program for edu-
4 cators, business partners, and others.

5 “(C) Identifying and creating school- and
6 work-based learning curricula or programs for
7 students in such emerging industry pathways.

8 “(D) Promoting the school- and work-
9 based curriculum or program among school
10 guidance counselors.

11 “(E) Working with pupil services staff to
12 develop opportunities for career exploration
13 among emerging industry pathways business
14 partners.

15 “(F) Conducting ongoing evaluations of
16 the school- and work-based curriculum or pro-
17 gram, including assessing whether participating
18 students report increased engagement in learn-
19 ing, increased school attendance, and improved
20 success upon entry into the workforce or post-
21 secondary education.

22 “(G) Purchasing resources, including text-
23 books, reference materials, assessments, labs,
24 computers, and software, for use in the school-
25 and work-based curriculum or program.

1 “(3) DISSEMINATION PHASE.—An eligible part-
 2 nership that receives a grant under this subpart
 3 shall use the grant funds in the dissemination phase
 4 for the following:

5 “(A) Evaluating, cataloging, and dissemi-
 6 nating best practices from the school- and
 7 work-based curriculum or program.

8 “(B) Disseminating the school- and work-
 9 based curriculum or program to—

10 “(i) the National Research Center for
 11 Career and Technical Education;

12 “(ii) State, regional, and local profes-
 13 sional education organizations; and

14 “(iii) institutions of higher education.

15 “(e) MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.—An eligible part-
 16 nership that receives a grant under this subpart shall pro-
 17 vide, from non-Federal sources, matching funds, which
 18 may be provided in cash or in-kind, to carry out the activi-
 19 ties supported by the grant, in an amount equal to—

20 “(1) for the first year of the grant, 5 percent
 21 of the amount of the grant for such year;

22 “(2) for the second year of the grant, 10 per-
 23 cent of the amount of the grant for such year;

24 “(3) for the third year of the grant, 15 percent
 25 of the amount of the grant for such year;

1 “(4) for the fourth year of the grant, 20 per-
2 cent of the amount of the grant for such year; and

3 “(5) for the fifth year of the grant, 25 percent
4 of the amount of the grant for such year.

5 “(f) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds
6 awarded under this subpart shall be used to supplement
7 and not supplant other Federal, State, and local funds
8 available to implement secondary school education pro-
9 grams or career and technical education programs.

10 **“SEC. 5625. EVALUATION AND REPORTS.**

11 “(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—An eligible partnership
12 that receives a grant under this subpart shall submit an
13 annual report to the Secretary during the grant period de-
14 tailing how the eligible partnership is using the grant
15 funds under this subpart, including—

16 “(1) how the State educational agency or local
17 educational agency that is a member of the eligible
18 partnership collaborated with local businesses, work-
19 force boards, institutions of higher education, and
20 community organizations to assess emerging indus-
21 try pathways;

22 “(2) how the eligible partnership has consulted
23 with and involved students in qualifying schools in
24 the design and implementation of the emerging in-

1 dustry pathways school- and work-based curriculum
2 or program;

3 “(3) the effectiveness of the school- and work-
4 based curriculum or program with respect to improv-
5 ing—

6 “(A) student engagement;

7 “(B) attendance;

8 “(C) secondary school graduation rates;
9 and

10 “(D) preparation for and placement in a
11 career in an emerging industry or in postsec-
12 ondary education;

13 “(4) how the eligible partnership has improved
14 its capacity to respond to new workforce develop-
15 ment priorities and create educational opportunities
16 that address such new workforce development prior-
17 ities; and

18 “(5) any other information the Secretary may
19 reasonably require.

20 “(b) FINAL REPORTS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible partnership that
22 receives a grant under this subpart shall, at the end
23 of the grant period, collect and prepare a report on
24 the following information:

1 “(A) The number and percentage of stu-
2 dents served by the eligible partnership who—

3 “(i) graduated from secondary school
4 with a regular secondary school diploma in
5 the standard number of years;

6 “(ii) entered into a job in an emerging
7 industry; and

8 “(iii) enrolled in a postsecondary in-
9 stitution.

10 “(B) The emerging industry pathways
11 school- and work-based curriculum or program
12 and the—

13 “(i) successes of such curriculum or
14 program, including placement rates of stu-
15 dents in work or postsecondary education
16 and trends in secondary school graduation
17 rates in qualifying schools utilizing the
18 school- and work-based curriculum or pro-
19 gram;

20 “(ii) areas of improvement for the
21 school- and work-based curriculum or pro-
22 gram;

23 “(iii) lessons learned from the imple-
24 mentation of the school- and work-based

1 curriculum or program in secondary
2 schools; and

3 “(iv) plans to replicate the school- and
4 work-based curriculum or program in other
5 schools or examples of successful replica-
6 tion of the curriculum or program.

7 “(2) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—A report pre-
8 pared under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the
9 Secretary and the National Research Center for Ca-
10 reer and Technical Education.

11 “(c) FEDERAL EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Not
12 later than 6 years after the date of enactment of this sub-
13 part, the Secretary shall—

14 “(1) develop and execute a plan for evaluating
15 the emerging industry pathways school- and work-
16 based curricula or programs assisted under this sub-
17 part; and

18 “(2) submit a report to Congress—

19 “(A) detailing aggregate data on—

20 “(i) the categories of activities for
21 which eligible partnerships used grant
22 funds under this subpart;

23 “(ii) the impact of the grants on—

1 “(I) student engagement, attend-
 2 ance, and completion of secondary
 3 school; and

4 “(II) the postsecondary place-
 5 ment of students in high-quality
 6 emerging industry careers or postsec-
 7 ondary education; and

8 “(iii) promising strategies for improv-
 9 ing student engagement, attendance, and
 10 completion of secondary school through en-
 11 gaging curricula or programs; and

12 “(B) that includes any recommendations
 13 for improvements that can be made to the
 14 grant program under this subpart.

15 **“SEC. 5626. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
 17 to and available for Program Administration within the
 18 Departmental Management account in the Department of
 19 Education for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2013,
 20 there are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for
 21 each of fiscal years 2010 through 2013, respectively, to
 22 carry out this subpart.

23 “(b) SET ASIDE FOR EVALUATION.—Of the amounts
 24 appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, 2 per-

1 cent shall be set aside for such fiscal year for the Federal
 2 evaluation required under section 5625(c).”.

3 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in
 4 section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
 5 of 1965 is amended by inserting after the item relating
 6 to section 5618 the following:

“SUBPART 22—CONNECTING EDUCATION AND EMERGING PROFESSIONS
 DEMONSTRATION GRANT PROGRAM

- “Sec. 5621. Definitions.
- “Sec. 5622. Program authorized.
- “Sec. 5623. Applications.
- “Sec. 5624. Program administration.
- “Sec. 5625. Evaluation and reports.
- “Sec. 5626. Authorization of appropriations.”.

